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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a cordierite porous body using a cordierite forming material including an Al source, an Si source, and an Mg source and forming cordierite by firing, characterized in that an inorganic micro balloon containing  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is used as a part or all of the Al source and the Si source.

2. (Original) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1, wherein a crush strength of the inorganic micro balloon, measured by a micro compression tester, is 1 MPa or more.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a moisture content of the inorganic micro balloon is 0.1% by mass or less.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~

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claim 1, wherein the inorganic micro balloon is obtained by calcining at 300°C or more.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a total content of the Si source and the Al source included in the inorganic micro balloon with respect to the whole inorganic micro balloon is 90% by mass or more, when the Si source is converted to  $\text{SiO}_2$ , and the Al source is converted to  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ .

6. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a total content of a sodium compound and a potassium compound included in the inorganic micro balloon with the whole inorganic micro balloon is 0.2 to 2% by mass, when the sodium compound is converted to  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , and the potassium compound is converted to  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$ .

7. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~

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claim 1, wherein a melting point of the inorganic micro balloon is 1400 to 1650°C.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein a tap density of the inorganic micro balloon is 0.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup> or less.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein talc is used as a part or all of the Mg source.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein aluminum hydroxide (Al(OH)<sub>3</sub>) is used as a part or all of the Al source except the inorganic micro balloon in a case where the inorganic micro balloon is used as a part of the Al source.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing the cordierite porous body according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~

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claim 1, wherein 20 to 52% by mass of kaolin with respect to an amount of the inorganic micro balloon is used as a part or all of the Al source except the inorganic micro balloon in a case where the inorganic micro balloon is used as a part of the Al source.